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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 603
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Elmwood Cemetery of Memphis
upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to pause in its deliberations to recognize those historical resources and sites that possess cultural significance, provide ties to our past, and make Tennesseans proud of our collective heritage and traditions; and

WHEREAS, one such august historical site is the Elmwood Cemetery located in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1852, the Elmwood Cemetery will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, as a product of the Rural Cemetery Movement of the mid-1800s, Elmwood Cemetery has helped to define and shape the character of our nation and our state; and

WHEREAS, the oldest cemetery in the Memphis area, the Elmwood Cemetery is a nonsectarian, not-for-profit organization chartered by the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, this historical landmark annually attracts thousands of tourists from around the world because of its renowned cemetery art and historical significance; and

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WHEREAS, the Elmwood collection of funeral art has been deemed the best collection of Victorian funerary statuary in the Southeast; the monuments reflect 150 years of artistic expression; and

WHEREAS, the cemetery also serves as an effective educational tool for thousands of students, because it houses numerous historical, horticultural, and artistic treasures; and

WHEREAS, the cemetery is headquartered in the Victorian Gothic Cottage built in 1866; the Cottage and the arched span bridge, built in 1904, were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the 1998 Crawford-Howard addition to the Cottage has received numerous accolades for its excellence in achieving compatibility of design and materials with the original structure; and

WHEREAS, the cemetery itself has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places and is expected to be approved for inclusion in April 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Elmwood Cemetery is also a symbol of American cultural diversity, as the 70,000 people interred there belong to numerous ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including African American, Asian, Greek, Romanian, Jewish, Mexican, and Islamic; and

WHEREAS, an emblem of American patriotism and bravery, the cemetery is the final resting place of veterans of every United States war, from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War; the cemetery is also the burial place of numerous Civil War officers, including 20 Confederate generals and 2 Union generals; and

WHEREAS, the cemetery is also a major location of interment for Yellow Fever victims of the 1870s; two Tennessee governors, five United States Senators and 18 Mayors of Memphis are also buried there; and

WHEREAS, the Carlisle S. Page Arboretum is located on the cemetery grounds and is recognized as a Tennessee Certified Arboretum by the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs and the Urban Tree Board; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable Page Arboretum contains over 800 trees of 64 species, which are labeled for educational purposes; many of these trees have been declared state and local champions; and

WHEREAS, a major anchor in its South Memphis Neighborhood, the Elmwood Cemetery is an invaluable resource for historical, artistic, and cultural heritage and is truly one of our state's most valuable treasures; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we recognize the Elmwood Cemetery upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary, as we pay tribute to its significance to the historical, artistic and cultural heritage of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.